

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: WORKING PARTY ON FAO COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

REF: (A) ROME 3675; (B) 3766.

1. BULA HOYOS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL, THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS, HELD THE SECOND SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON MAY 18 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT AGENDA, REFTELS. MEETING STARTED SLOWLY WITH CHAIRMAN PASSING OUR COMMENTS OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SPAIN, BEING POUCHED IO/AGR. SINCE FEW MEMBERS HAD INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS INFORMAL MEETING ONLY A FEW ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN.

2. WORKING PARTY TURNED DOWN PROPOSAL OF CHAIRMAN TO MEET JUNE 7-9 AND CONFIRMED EARLIER DECISION TO HOLD FIRST SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION JULY 19-23. THE MORNING OF JULY 19 IS HELD OPEN FOR REGIONAL AND GROUP MEETINGS.

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3. WORKING PARTY AGREED TO ACCEPT NON-MEMBER STATE COMMENTS BUT

EXPRESSED PREFERENCE IF THEY COULD BE SUBMITTED THROUGH REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKED INTO REGIONAL POSITIONS. ANY COMMENTS OR POSITIONS WILL BE TRANSLATED AND DISTRIBUTED TO WORKING PARTY MEMBERS BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE JULY MEETING. IN ADDITION, SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE A FEW KEY PAPERS ON FAO RULES AND PROCEDURES TO ASSIST JULY MEETING.

4. WORKING PARTY AGREED TO AMEND DRAFT AGENDA SO AS TO EMPHASIZE FAO RELATIONS WITH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN PARTICULAR. ON PLEA FROM FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE, THESE ITEMS AND CONSEQUENCES OF DIRECTOR GENERAL'S OWN REFORMS OF FAO WILL BE PUT OFF TO SECOND STAGE OF WORKING PARTY'S AGENDA. FIRST STAGE WILL CONCENTRATE ON INTERNAL OPERATION OF FAO.

5. FINALLY, MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE BACKED BY WORKING PARTY'S RADICALS, GUINEA AND ALGERIA, INSISTED ON ADDING A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO MEMBERSHIP IN FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND THESE CONFERENCES' REGULATIONS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, WITHOUT REFUSING TO CONSIDER SUBJECT, SUGGESTED THIS IS A DIVISIVE ISSUE THAT L.A. REGIONAL CONFERENCE COULD BEST HANDLE BUT MEXICAN REP INSISTED WORKING PARTY SHOULD CONSIDER MATTER AS REGIONAL CONFERENCE HAD PUT ISSUE TO ONE SIDE. NEW AGENDA WILL BE POUCHED IA/AGR WHEN RELEASED.

COMMENT: (A) WE WILL PASS ALONG SUBSTANCE OF THIS MEETING TO CANADIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN LINE WITH OUR REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. (B) IF U.S. OR CANADA WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN VIEWS, THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO FAO SECRETARIAT. (WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT BEST NOT TO OFFER ANYTHING TO WORKING PARTY UNTIL WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHERE WORKING PARTY IS HEADING, IF ANYWHERE.) (C) WE SHOULD HAVE FOR THE NEXT MEETING FULL BRIEFING PAPER AND RESPONSE ON MEXICAN EFFORTS TO REMOVE U.S. FROM FAO LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE. VOLPE

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